

CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM

Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement Notice of Preparation to Prepare an Environmental Impact Report

March 1996

What Is CALFED?

CALFED is a group of state and federal agencies working together to develop long-term solutions to the problems affecting the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta (Bay-Delta system). The solution-finding effort focuses on ecosystem quality, water supply reliability, water quality, and vulnerability of Delta levees and channels to natural disasters. Your input is important in developing workable, long-term, integrated solutions.

Environmental Review Kicks Off with Scoping Meetings

The environmental review of the various alternative solutions will kick off in April 1996 with a series of scoping meetings at various locations in California (see schedule on back page). These meetings will serve two purposes: first, the scoping meetings will be used to solicit early input from the public and agencies regarding alternatives, concerns, and issues to be addressed in the joint programmatic environmental impact statement/environmental impact report (EIS/EIR); and second, they will provide an opportunity for CALFED to explain the purpose of the Bay-Delta Program and how and when the public can participate.

What Is Scoping?

Scoping is the first step in environmental problem-solving. Scoping is a process to identify public and agency concerns, to define the issues and alternatives that will be examined in detail in the EIS/EIR, and to help ensure that the document adequately addresses relevant issues.

Who Should Attend A Scoping Meeting?

Anyone interested in learning more about the CALFED Bay-Delta Program should attend one of the scoping meetings. We need your assistance in providing input on alternatives, concerns, and issues to be addressed in the programmatic EIS/EIR. The relaxed setting of the scoping meetings will allow you to look at maps and displays, ask questions, and comment on the issues you believe are important.

Public Input Is Essential

Realistic, workable, and lasting solutions to the problems of the Bay-Delta must reflect input from all of us. Public participation and guidance are essential to the process. The environmental review of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program will provide numerous opportunities for participation by public agencies and the general public through public scoping meetings and public review of the programmatic EIR/EIS. CALFED has held public workshops that involve all water interests, from policy experts to farmers and small-business owners; environmental advocates to Delta residents, in the process. These workshops have focused on defining problems and assembling and refining solution alternatives. CALFED has also conducted public meetings throughout California to provide an opportunity for interested individuals and agencies to learn about the Bay-Delta Program and to comment on its efforts. Public involvement activities will continue throughout the Program. As a service, CALFED can provide a speaker for your interest group, civic association, or other organization.



Important Telephone Numbers:

To receive additional scoping meeting notices or newsletters, or to be placed on the mailing list for public meetings, please call Ms. Beth Chambers at (916) 657-2666. A telephone device for the hearing impaired (TDD) is available from TDD phones at 1-800-735-2929; from voice phones at 1-800-735-2922.

To Comment:

Written comments or concerns on the scope of alternatives, issues to be addressed in the programmatic EIS/EIR, and impacts to be considered should be sent no later than April 26, 1996 to:

CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM

What Is the CALFED Bay-Delta Program?

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is an unprecedented cooperative effort among state and federal agencies and the public to forge a lasting solution to restore the health of the Bay-Delta system while addressing the needs of the residents and the economy. The Program is conducting a cooperative planning process that will determine the most appropriate strategy and the actions necessary to improve water and ecosystem quality, provide water for all beneficial uses, and minimize Delta system vulnerability. CALFED comprises the following agencies:

California state agencies:

The Resources Agency
Department of Water Resources
Department of Fish and Game
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal agencies are:

Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Fish and Wildlife Service
Environmental Protection Agency
National Marine Fisheries Service

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers also has joined the CALFED team as a cooperating agency.

What Is the Mission of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program?

The mission of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program is to develop a long-term comprehensive plan that will restore ecological health and improve water management for beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta system.

Why Is the Bay-Delta System Important?

The San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary is the largest estuary on the west coast. The Bay-Delta system

- includes 40,000 acres of wetlands and supports 120 fish species,
- provides drinking water for 20 million people, and
- provides irrigation water for 200 crops and 45% of the nation's fruits and vegetables.

The health of the Bay-Delta system has declined significantly, and reduced reliability of its functions poses a serious threat to California residents, businesses, agriculture, and environmental resources, and has national implications.

What Are the Four Main Bay-Delta System Problems and Objectives?

The four main Bay-Delta system problems are water quality, ecosystem quality, water supply, and Delta system vulnerability. The four main objectives are:

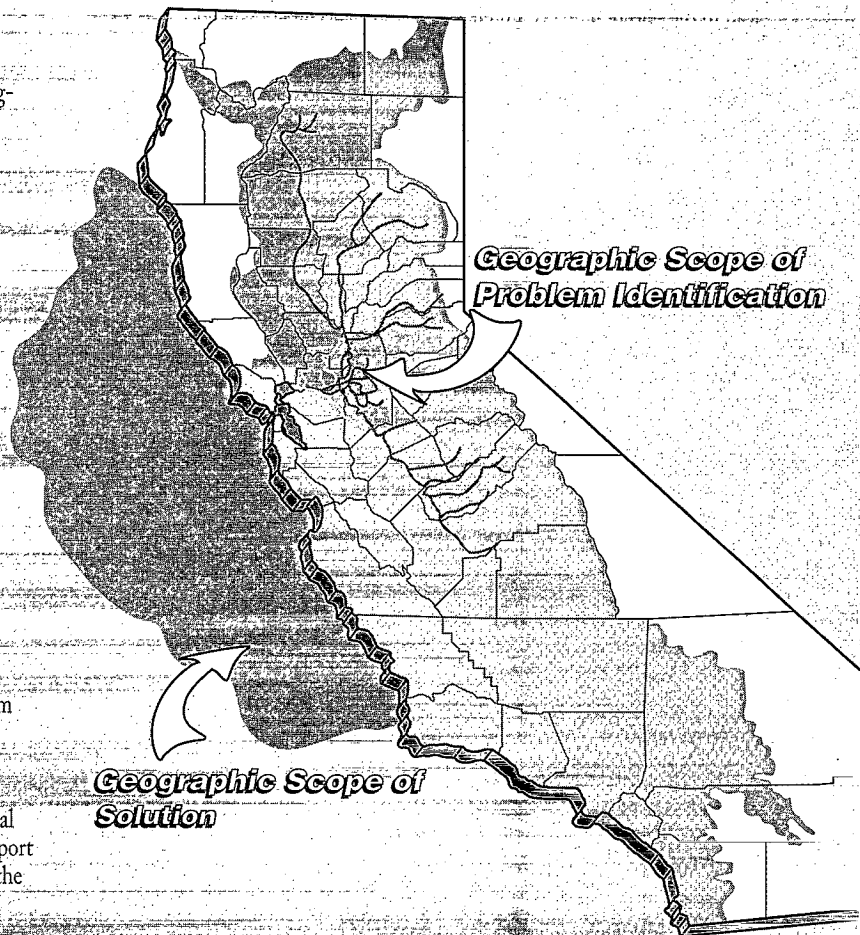
- **Ecosystem Quality** - to improve and increase aquatic and terrestrial habitats and improve ecological functions in the Bay-Delta to support sustainable populations of the fish and wildlife species relying on the Bay-Delta system;

- **Water Quality** - to provide good water quality for all beneficial uses;
- **Water Supply** - minimize conflict among beneficial uses of Bay-Delta system water and reduce the mismatch between Bay-Delta water supplies and current and projected beneficial uses dependent on the Bay-Delta system; and
- **Delta System Vulnerability** - to reduce the risk to land use and associated economic activities, water supply, infrastructure, and the ecosystem from catastrophic breaching or gradual deterioration of Delta levees.

What Is the Geographic Scope of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program?

Establishing an appropriate geographic scope is essential to the Program's success. Specifically, the geographic problem scope is the legally defined Delta, Suisun Bay, and Suisun Marsh. The Program addresses problems that exist within these boundaries or are closely linked to this area, and related to water management and beneficial economic and environmental use of water. The scope of possible solutions to the problems in the Bay-Delta system includes any action that can be implemented or influenced by the CALFED agencies, regardless of whether its implementation takes place within the Bay-Delta area.

The geographic scope of alternatives being analyzed in the programmatic EIS/EIR could include at least the Central Valley watershed, the Southern California water system, and the Pacific Ocean.



What Is an EIS? What Is an EIR?

An environmental impact statement (EIS) is a public document prepared by a federal agency that provides a full and fair discussion of significant environmental impacts that could occur as a result of a project, and informs the decision makers and the public of reasonable alternatives that would avoid or minimize adverse impacts. An EIS is governed by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

An environmental impact report (EIR) is a public document prepared by a state agency that analyzes a project's significant effects and identifies mitigation measures and reasonable alternatives. An EIR is governed by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The state and federal agencies that make up CALFED are working together to prepare a joint document that meet both the state and federal requirements as efficiently as possible.

CALFED is preparing a programmatic-level EIS/EIR in compliance with NEPA and CEQA. The programmatic EIS/EIR will focus on the broad policy and resource allocation decisions that are required to implement the program. Because of the general nature of this type of EIS/EIR, the process will be more conceptual than a project-specific environmental document. Similarly, the document will have a more general discussion of impacts, alternatives, and mitigation measures. The impacts of each alternative will be identified including feasibility, cost, and benefit. The primary purpose of this document will be to inform decision makers about the environmental dimensions, particularly the interrelated and cumulative consequences, of the alternatives. The document will lead to the selection of a comprehensive and balanced plan that addresses all of the resource problems identified as concerns of the Program.

What Is the Project?

CALFED has drafted alternative solutions for the four identified problems of water quality, ecosystem quality, water supply, and Delta system vulnerability. Each draft alternative is a combination of many actions, such as operational

and policy changes, habitat restoration, and water flow adjustments, that together form a comprehensive solution to problems in the Bay-Delta. Each draft alternative is designed to include a balanced array of actions that, when combined, solve many problems simultaneously.

The draft alternatives are subject to significant change based on further public input and technical analyses. While the draft alternatives vary in emphasis and detail, they share the following measures or "core actions" that are already accepted by many stakeholders:

- habitat restoration in the Delta and upstream of the Delta,
- reduction in the effects that diversions have on fish,
- management of anadromous fish,
- reduction in reliance on exports of water from the Delta,
- increase in water supply predictability,
- management of water quality, and
- improvements to system reliability.

Beyond their common core actions, the draft alternatives range from those that change the operation of the existing Bay-Delta system to those that restructure the system itself. None of the draft alternatives exclude either reoperation or restructuring.

What Are Some of the Specific Issues to Be Resolved?

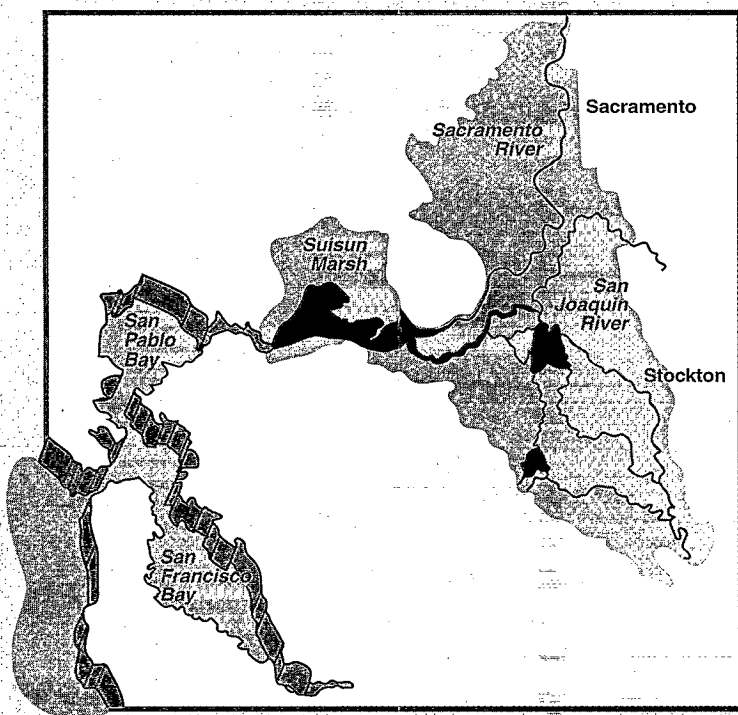
The following are significant issues that have been identified by CALFED agencies:

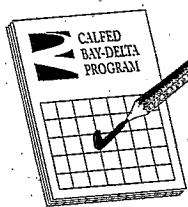
- declining fish populations;
- Delta water quality;
- agricultural and municipal water supplies and water quality;
- health of the Delta ecosystem;
- levee stability in the Delta;
- flow and direction of water in the Delta and tributaries;
- land uses in the Delta;
- wetland, upland, and aquatic habitats in the Delta and tributaries;
- upstream storage reservoirs;
- recreation opportunities; and
- power generation at upstream facilities.

Where Are We Headed?

CALFED is developing a list of alternatives that will be addressed in the EIS/EIR. This list will be available after April 1, 1996 and will be mailed to everyone receiving this notice.

CALFED will prepare the programmatic draft EIS/EIR and circulate it for a minimum of 45 days for agency and public review. Reviewers will be requested to provide written comments on the comprehensiveness and accuracy of the analysis in identifying and analyzing possible impacts on the environment and ways in which the significant impacts might be avoided or mitigated. After comments are received and reviewed, CALFED will prepare written responses to comments and publish the programmatic final EIS/EIR. After a preferred alternative is selected, that set of solution actions will move into environmental review of specific projects. The documents prepared in this phase will be site-specific and may be short or may be more detailed, depending on the project and the issues.





SCOPING MEETING SCHEDULE

Mark Your Calendar Now!!

If you need special assistance to participate in a scoping meeting, please call Ms. Pauline Nevins at (916) 657-2666 as far in advance of the scoping meeting as possible, and not later than April 1, 1996, to enable CALFED to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to the meeting. If a request cannot be honored, the requestor will be notified.

COMMUNITY	WHEN	MEETING LOCATION	COMMUNITY	WHEN	MEETING LOCATION
Oakland	Tuesday, April 9, 1996 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	MetroCenter Building Eighth and Madison Streets	San Diego	Tuesday, April 16, 1996 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	Red Lion Hotel/San Diego 7450 Hazard Center Drive
Walnut Grove	Wednesday, April 10, 1996 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	Jean Harvie Senior and Community Center 14273 River Road	Long Beach	Wednesday, April 17, 1996 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	Long Beach Renaissance Hotel 111 East Ocean Boulevard
Red Bluff	Thursday, April 11, 1996 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	Tehama County Community Center Gardenside Room 1500 South Jackson Road	Pasadena	Wednesday, April 17, 1996 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	Holiday Inn 303 East Cordova
Sacramento	Monday, April 15, 1996 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	Red Lion Inn 2001 Point West Way	Bakersfield	Thursday, April 18, 1996 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	Red Lion Inn 3100 Camino Del Rio Court



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Sacramento, CA 95814

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FAX: (916) 654-9780

Address Correction Requested

BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION!

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